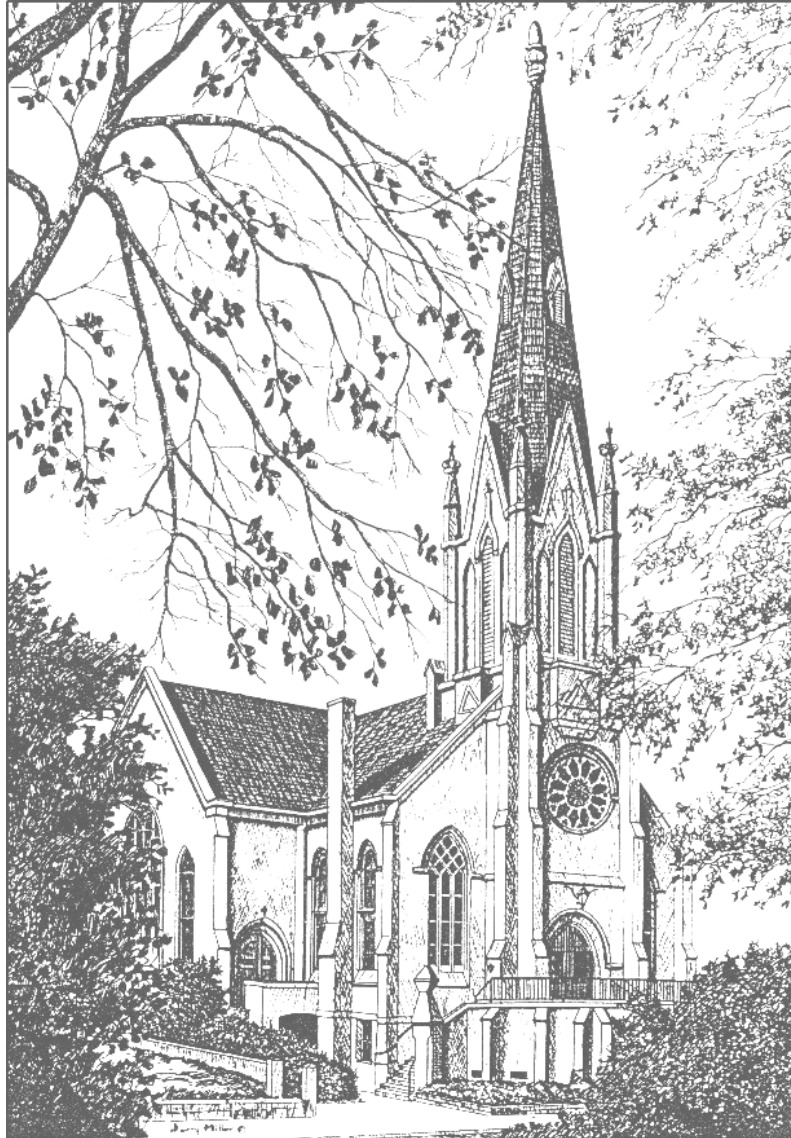


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



August 2, 2020

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP  
THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 2, 2020

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: Today is the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, part of what is called Ordinary Time in the Christian year. We continue with the cycle of readings that come from the Revised Common Lectionary and hear familiar words, but the realities of any given time shape our hearing. Today as we hear the familiar story of Jacob wrestling at night with a man near the Jabbok, recorded in Genesis 32, a simple phrase we have never paid much attention to before grabs our attention — Jacob was left alone. Alone. We too now know all too well what it feels like to be alone, isolated, cut off from others. But Jacob chooses to be alone and finds deep meaning in this experience, though his fair share of struggle too. Even as we yearn for normalcy and routine, more time with one another beyond the worst of this pandemic, might we find something good and sacred in our time alone? The sermon addresses this question, we pray for God to make something good of this time, the musical meditation offers us something good, and we sing hymns that relate to this theme — an ancient hymn seeking God's vision by day or by night, and a contemporary hymn written by pastoral colleague and Raleigh resident Tom Jackson which brings the biblical text to life in ways that haunt and heal.

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GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

The Prelude

“Slane”

arr. Charles Callahan

Mary Alice Seals, piano

The Trinity Chimes

*Three chimes are sounded, awakening us to the presence of God, alerting us to the voice of Christ, centering us in the embrace of the Spirit. As we gather, we present ourselves “as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is our spiritual worship.”*

The Call to Worship (responsive)

from Psalm 17

LEADER: Hear a just cause, O Lord; attend to my cry; give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit.

PEOPLE: **From you let my vindication come; let your eyes see the right.**

LEADER: If you try my heart, if you visit me by night, if you test me, you will find no wickedness in me; my mouth does not transgress.

PEOPLE: **As for what others do, by the word of your lips I have avoided the ways of the violent.**

LEADER: My steps have held fast to your paths; my feet have not slipped.

PEOPLE: **I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me, hear my words.**

LEADER: Wondrously show your steadfast love, O Savior of those who seek refuge from their adversaries at your right hand.

PEOPLE: **As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake I shall be satisfied, beholding your likeness.**

The Invocation

Leah Reed

*Unison*

1. Be thou my Vi - sion, O Lord of my heart; naught be all  
 2. Be thou my Wis - dom, and thou my true Word, I ev - er  
 3. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won, may I reach

else to me, save that thou art— thou my best thought, by  
 with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou and thou on - ly,  
 heav-en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun! Heart of my own heart, what-

day or by night, wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 first in my heart, high King of heav - en, my Treas - ure thou art.  
 ev - er be - fall, still be my Vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

WORDS: Traditional Irish hymn, c. 8th C.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1912

MUSIC: Traditional Irish melody; arr. Donald P. Hustad, 1973

Music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company

SLANE  
10.10.10.10.

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Genesis 32:22–31

Lynn Lingafelt

<sup>22</sup>The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. <sup>23</sup>He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had.

<sup>24</sup>Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. <sup>25</sup>When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. <sup>26</sup>Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." <sup>27</sup>So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." <sup>28</sup>Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." <sup>29</sup>Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. <sup>30</sup>So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." <sup>31</sup>The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Christian Testament

Romans 9:1–5

<sup>1</sup>I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit— <sup>2</sup>I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. <sup>3</sup>For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup>They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; <sup>5</sup>to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God**

The Morning Prayer

Christopher Chapman

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father,  
who art in heaven.  
Hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. <sup>14</sup>When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. <sup>15</sup>When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." <sup>17</sup>They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." <sup>18</sup>And he said, "Bring them here to me." <sup>19</sup>Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. <sup>20</sup>And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. <sup>21</sup>And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

PEOPLE: **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

The Musical Meditation

"Hark! the Echoing Air a Triumph Sings"

Purcell/arr. Magatagan

Elaine Holley and Beth McCollum, violins; John Holley, viola

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

"Finding Something Good and Sacred in Our Time Alone"

The Hymn of Response

"Jacob Wrestling"<sup>2</sup>

BEACH SPRING

**Jacob wrestling with a stranger, in the darkness of the night,  
yielding not without a blessing, grappling 'til the dawn of light;  
though the struggle left him wounded Jacob knew he had found grace,  
called the place he strove Peniel, where he saw God face to face.**

**We, like Jacob, too, must struggle, grapple with our doubts and fears,  
bitter though may be the battle, marked by agony and tears;  
yet that struggle can yield blessing, doubts destroy and fears erase,  
though we bear the scars of suffering better shall we know God's grace.**

**In the darkness we see shadows, hear strange voices, feel deep pain,  
pray for light to see more clearly, plead for strength the vict'ry gain;  
yet if we by faith still wrestle, soon the darkness will be past,  
in the light that then awaits us, we will see God's face at last.**

#### DEPARTING TO SERVE

The Benediction

The Chimes

*Three chimes are sounded, sending us into the world with the love of God, the Good News of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit. As you go, remember, "you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people."*

The Postlude

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

arr. Anna Laura Page

Mary Alice Seals, piano

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<sup>1</sup>Words: Traditional Irish hymn, c. 8<sup>th</sup> C.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1912; Music: Traditional Irish melody; arr. Donald P. Hustad, © 1974 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-708116. All rights reserved.

<sup>2</sup>Words: Tom Jackson, November 10, 1991. Used by permission.

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Our acolytes today are Carter and Kinley Pegram.

The Heck-Jones offering provides a way for our congregation to connect to great mission work with ties to our church. Details may be found in the *Rose Window Weekly*. As of July 28, we have received \$6,220 toward our goal of \$10,000.

Due to staff shortages at the post office which is holding our mail for pick up, we may experience delays in receiving mail for the next few weeks. Please be aware that it might take a bit longer to receive any mailed correspondence or donations during this time.